STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1 – 38 (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) A method for providing multimedia content to a customer comprising:

connecting a computing device to a first server via a data communication network, the computing device including a display screen,

communicating first data from the first server to the computing device via the data communication network, the first data defining a first graphical user interface that provides for user selection of multimedia content;

displaying the first graphical user interface on the display screen of the computing device;

in response to user interaction with the first graphical user interface whereby the user selects particular multimedia content, communicating second data identifying the particular multimedia content from the computing device to the first server over the data communications network;

connecting a second server to a media receiver at the customer's premises via a distribution network, the distribution network employing a plurality of RF channels for delivery of multimedia content from the second server to the media receiver, the media receiver separate and distinct from the computing device;

communicating a command to the media receiver via the distribution network, the command providing third data that enables the media receiver to tune to at least one particular RF channel of said plurality of RF channels of the distribution network and receive the particular media content over said at least one particular RF channel, wherein

the command is communicated to the media receiver upon a determination that sufficient bandwidth is available over said at least one particular RF channel;

upon receipt of the command at the media receiver, tuning the media receiver to said at least one particular RF channel; and

communicating the particular media content from the second server to the media receiver over said at least one particular RF channel of the distribution network where it is received at the media receiver for output therefrom.

40. (previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein:

the command is communicated from a controller to the media receiver over the distribution network, the controller operably coupled to the first server.

41. (cancelled)

42. (previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein:

the command identifies a communication channel assigned for communication of the particular multimedia content to the media receiver, and

upon receipt of the command at the media receiver, the media receiver is controlled to receive the particular media content over the assigned communication channel.

43. (previously presented) A method according to claim 42, wherein:

the assigned communication channel comprises a particular RF frequency and a particular MPEG stream.

44. (previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein:

the first graphical user interface includes at least one web page that is displayed by a web browser execution on the computing device.

45. (previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein:

the data communication network comprises the Internet.

46. (previously presented) A method according to claim 39, further comprising:

maintaining a database storing status information associated with delivery of the particular media content from the second server to the first server over the distribution network, the database operably coupled to first server; and

communicating fourth data from the first server to the computing device via the data communication network, the fourth data defining a second graphical user interface that provides for user access to the status information.

47. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the status information represents at least one of the following:

title of the particular media content,

a type associated with the particular media content,

a rating associated with the particular media content,

current position of playback of the particular media content at the media receiver,

remainder of a predetermined time period allocated for playback of the particular media content at the media receiver,

an expiration time and date upon which playback of the particular media content at the media receiver will be prevented,

status of playback of the particular media content at the media receiver, and

an order identifier associated with the particular media content.

48. (previously presented) A method according to claim 47, further comprising:

preventing playback of the particular media content at the media receiver upon expiration of the predetermined time period allocated for playback of the particular media content at the media receiver.

49. (previously presented) A method according to claim 47, further comprising:

preventing playback of the particular media content at the media receiver when the expiration time and date has passed.

50. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein:

the database stores information associated with the distribution network.

51. (previously presented) A method according to claim 50, wherein:

the information stored in the database includes a node table that includes a plurality of records corresponding to distribution nodes of the distribution network for delivering media content to customers, wherein each record of the node table includes an identifier that identifies a particular distribution node.

52. (previously presented) A method according to claim 51, wherein:

the information stored in the database includes an RF channel group table that includes a plurality of records corresponding to distribution nodes of the distribution network, wherein each record of the RF channel group table includes an identifier for a given RF channel group for delivering media content to customers via a particular distribution node.

53. (previously presented) A method according to claim 52, wherein:

the information stored in the database includes an RF channel table that includes a plurality of records each corresponding to a given RF channel group for a particular

distribution node, wherein each record of the RF channel table includes an identifier for a particular RF channel, maximum capacity of the particular RF channel, available capacity of the particular RF channel, a channel type of the particular RF channel, and a frequency of the particular RF channel.

54. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein:

the information stored in the database includes an MPEG channel table that includes a plurality of records each corresponding to a given RF channel of an RF channel group for a particular distribution node, wherein each record of the MPEG channel table includes an identifier for a particular MPEG channel, a transmission bit rate for the particular MPEG channel, and a status of the particular MPEG channel.

55. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein:

the information stored in the database is accessed to identify a particular RF channel and MPEG channel with sufficient available bandwidth to communicate the particular media content over the distribution network from the distribution node to the media receiver.

56. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46, further comprising:

communicating fifth data from the first server to the computing device via the data communication network, the fifth data defining a third graphical user interface that provides for user control over re-communication of the command to the media receiver; and

wherein, upon receipt of the re-communicated command at the media receiver, the media receiver is enabled to receive the particular media content communicated from the second server to the media receiver over the distribution network.

57. (previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein:

the first data communicated from the first server to the computing device defines a graphical user interface that provides for user selection of a particular media receiver from a plurality of media receivers located at the customer's premises, wherein the command is communicated to the particular media receiver over the distribution network, and wherein the particular media content is communicated to the particular media receiver over said at least one particular RF channel of the distribution network.